

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lawrence R. Higgins, Acting Chief of Police

Serving the Community through Quality Policing

The Dalton Police Department continues to work with the citizens of the town to prevent and control crime and to provide a safe environment for all generations. Thanks to the dedication of a fine group of very talented officers and the cooperation of our citizens, we have been able to continue to provide quality services to the community.

Through the efforts of Chief Filiault, the department was able to obtain a \$250,000 federal "COPS in Schools" Grant. This grant enabled us to provide school resource officers on a full time basis to both the middle and high schools. Officer John Marley and Officer George Adams have been assigned to Nessacus and Wahconah respectively.

We recently hired Jason Couture and Gregory Caputo; both officers were members of the Springfield Police Department that were victims of that city's layoff. We have welcomed them to our team.

In July we received new defensive tactic batons. Officers Dale Gero and Ryan Lamb have become certified instructors and all of our officers have been trained in the use of the new batons. The town of Dalton was chosen as a training site for in-service training for the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Center and hosted several training sessions for county officers. These sessions were facilitated by Chief Filiault and Officer John Bartels. Officers Richard Nicholas and Kevin Miller continue to serve as Firearms and OC instructors and Officer Jeffrey Coe, handles our drug evidence.

In November we applied for and received a community policing grant of \$45,600 through the Executive Office of Public Safety. This grant will help to continue our community policing and crime prevention efforts. These efforts include our DARE programs at Craneville and Saint Agnes Schools led by Officer Deanna Strout; the TRIAD program under the guidance of Officer John Thibodeau; Dalton Community Cable; Dalton CRA; the Dalton Civic Arts Council; Dalton Police Explorers; and the Berkshire County Drug task force.

This year we have continued to work with several state and federal agencies on homeland security issues. We were required to participate in several extensive surveys for state and federal agencies. Thanks to the efforts of our administrative assistant Rebecca Whitaker and our interim assistant Esther Balardini, we were one of only a few communities to successfully complete the surveys on time. This will make us eligible for grant monies in the future for our homeland security issues and help the state to better assess the needs of our area.

I would like to thank the men and women of the Dalton Police Department for their dedication to duty and to the town. I would like to wish a speedy recovery to Chief Dan

Filiault who is currently out of work for medical reasons and thank him for his leadership and hard work over the years. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with many dedicated citizens who volunteer their services to the town especially the members of the Dalton Fire and Ambulance departments, the Dalton TRIAD SALT council, the Dalton Traffic Commission, and the Dalton Police Explorers.

DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS	2002	2003
Business Calls	13,991	15,964
911 Calls	861	858
Crash Data Report Incidents	129	142
Traffic Citations	778	958
Citation Fines	\$16,488	\$21,575
Parking Tickets	264	172
Parking Fines	\$2,485	\$2,780
Accident Report Fees	\$600	\$ 785
Firearms Permits/Cards	162	200
Firearms/Card fees	\$2,950	\$3,625